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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08160 170937Z

21
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 VO-01 SCA-01 IO-03

H-02 /031 W
---------- 090368
P 170848Z JUL 75
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5977

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8160

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF VS HK US
SUBJ: PAROLE PROGRAM FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 167770

1. WE VERY MUCH WELCOME THE ARRIVAL OF IATF TEAM TO HONG KONG TO DISCUSS RESETTLEMENT OF THE REMAINING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG. WE HOPE THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THE MANY PRACTICAL QUESTIONS WE HAVE ALREADY RAISED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL PARA 2A, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONALIZING THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM HERE HAS ALREADY PROCEEDED WELL AND THAT THERE IS LIMITED ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY OF THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCE ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP ON TRYING. TO DATE, OF THE 3,909 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG, 915 HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THIRD COUNTRIES, PRIMARILY FRANCE, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, WHILE ANOTHER 126 HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED FOR THE US OR GUAM. WHILE FRANCE, CANADA, AND BELGIUM CONTINUE TO PROCESS A FEW VIETNAMESE WITH TIES TO THOSE COUNTRIES OR SPECIAL SKILLS, THE ONLY OTHER LARGE GROUPS CURRENTLY MARKED FOR OTHER THID-COUNTRY SETTLEMENT IS A GROUP OF 105 WHICH THE DANES ARE CONSIDERING AND ABOUT 100 BEING PROCESSED BY AUSTRIA. A SMALL GROUP OF 30-35 HAVE INDICATED TO UNHCR THAT THEY WISH TO RETURN TO SAIGON.
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THIS WOULD LEAVE APPROXIMATELY 2,600 ALMOST HALF OF WHOM

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MET THE CURRENT CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE US, IN THE HK DETENTION CAMPS. A UNHCR REP (IVOR JACKSON) HAS BEEN IN HONG KONG SEVERAL WEEKS ATTEMPTING TO INTEREST OTHER COUNTRIES IN SMALL GROUPS OF REFUGEES BUT WITH LITTLE SUCCESS EXCEPT FOR THE AUSTRIANS. ICEM, WHICH HAS A PERMANENT OFFICE IN HONG KONG, HAS MET WITH SIMILAR LACK OF SUCCESS.

3. PARA 2B - COORDINATION IS NOT A PROBLEM HERE AS WE HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANCT TOUCH WITH ALL ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN REFUGEE PROBLEM AND ALREADY EXCHANGE LISTS AND INFORMATION TO AVOID DUPLICATION.

4. PARA 2C -- NEITHER IS THERE ANY DIFFICULTY IN OUR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH UNHCR AND ICEM.

5. ALL OF THE VIETNAMESE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN HERE FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS NOW, MORALE AT THE CAMPS HAS SAGGED LARGE-LY BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE FUTURE, AND AS INDICATED ABOVE WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT FOR ADDITIONAL THIRD-COUNTRY ACCEPTANCES. THUS, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IATF ACCEPT 2,600 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG. CROSS

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